



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/631,372	07/31/2003	Peter Berkman	1322-000157	2140
7590	06/02/2004			EXAMINER
Harness, Dickey and Pierce, P.L.C. P.O. Box 828 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303			LEE, KEVIN L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3753	

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/631,372	BERKMAN ET AL.
	Examiner KEVIN L LEE	Art Unit 3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/31/03</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ashton (U.S. patent no. 5,996,614). The patent to Ashton discloses a valve assembly comprising a valve member including a fixed ceramic disc (74) and a rotatable ceramic disc (70), col. 4, lines 27-63. The valve assembly includes a check valve (94) disposed between the inlet and the discs, col. 5, lines 27-45.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashton in view of Chrysler (U.S. patent no. 5,392,805). The valve assembly of Ashton discloses the ceramic discs (70, 74) and check valve (94). The valve housing includes

an outlet (42). Ashton lacks having a spigot connected to the outlet to control the flow of water out of the valve. The patent to Chrysler teaches providing a spigot (63) to the valve housing to direct the outlet flow of water out of the valve, see Figure 1. In view of the teaching of Chrysler, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the valve assembly of Ashton to include a spigot to the housing to direct the flow of water out of the valve housing and also provide a connection source for a hose. The valve of Ashton is readable as having a handle adjacent the outlet (42), col. 4, lines 14-17.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chrysler in view of Ashton. The patent to Chrysler discloses a valve assembly including ceramic discs (110, 112), the discs providing fluid control in the valve assembly, col. 7, lines 39-55. A check valve (90) is provided in the valve housing to prevent reverse fluid flow through the valve housing, col. 6, lines 34-43. The check valve (90), however, is located upstream of the ceramic discs (110, 112) and is not disposed between the inlet and the discs (110, 112). The patent to Ashton teaches disposing a check valve (94) between the inlet and the discs (70, 74) so that the check valve may "prevent water flow from the plates to the fluid entrance," col. 5, lines 27-34. In view of the teaching of Ashton, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the valve assembly of Chrysler to have the check valve disposed between the inlet and the ceramic discs so that the check valve may prevent water flow from the plates to the fluid entrance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEVIN L LEE whose telephone number is (703) 308-1025. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVE SCHERBEL can be reached on (703) 308-1272. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MAY 28, 2004


Kevin Lee
Primary Examiner